(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The Government have been following a multi-pronged approach in dealing with terrorist violence and bringing in peace in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The major prongs of the strategy, *inter-alia,* including (i) strengthening border management and pro-active action against terrorists within J&K (ii) accelerating economic development and (iii) remaining open to pursue a dialogue with all groups and different shades of opinion in the State on a sustained basis in consultation with the democratically elected State Government.

Identity cards for persons living in border areas

1020. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue identity cards to people living in border areas to ascertain their identities;

(b) whether any State Government of the NER has requested the Government to consider the issue of such photo identity cards as a national scheme; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government proposes to issue Multipurpose National Identity Cards to the citizens of the country. However, keeping in view the complexities involved, presently only a Pilot Project has been undertaken on an experimental basis in a few selected sub-districts of 12 States and one Union Territory. The Government propose to implement the scheme in the entire country after the results of the Pilot Project are available, which is expected to be completed shortly.

(b) and (c) The State Governments of Assam and Meghalaya had requested for extension of the pilot scheme to the entire State. Since the pilot scheme had already commenced, it was not possible to include new areas at that juncture. The State Governments were accordingly informed.

Multi-purpose National Identity Cards

1021. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: